Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /138 W

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P 092215Z MAY 78 FM AMCONSUL CALGARY TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2408 INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

UNCLAS CALGARY 0263

E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: ENRG. CA

SUBJ: ALBERTA GAS EXPORTS

REF: CALGARY 0255

- 1. TRANSCANADA IS PREPARING APPLICATION TO NEB WHICH WILL REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR ANNUAL SALE OF 110 BCF OF NATURAL GAS TO EASTERN U.S. SHIPPERS OVER TWO YEAR PERIOD (NOV. 1, 1978 OCT. 31, 1980). ACCORDING TO SENIOR TRANSCANADA PIPELINES OFFICIAL, FIRST PURCHASE OPTION MUST BE GIVEN TO CONSOLIDATED PIPELINES LTD., BUT WE UNDERSTAND MOST LIKELY GAS BUYERS WOULD BE COLUMBIA GAS SYSTEM, MICHIGAN WISCONSIN PIPE LINE CO. AND PEOPLES GAS COMPANY. TRANSCANADA OFFICIAL TOLD GONGEN THAT, SINCE GAS VOLUMES INVOLVED WERE "DE MINIMUS", NEB APPROVAL MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING.
- 2. COMMENT: NEB AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL GAS EXPORTS WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD ELIMINATING TRANSCANADA S CURRENT "TAKE OR PAY" GAS SURPLUS PROBLEM (CALGARY 0255). PROPOSED SALES, HOWEVER, WOULD APPEAR TO IMPINGE UPON FOOTHILLS' PLAN TO PREBUILD SOUTHERN LEG OF ALASKAN HIGHWAY GAS PIPELINE, AND FOR THIS REASON WE DOUBT THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS EXPORT ARRANGEMENT WILL BE AUTHORIZED BY GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA.
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